Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ARA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AGRE-00 /088 W

-----040106Z 055080 /72

R 031433Z JUNE 77

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1514

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

CONFIDENTIAL LAGOS 6296

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, CU, NI

SUBJECT: CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO VIST NIGERIA

- 1. MEA AMERICAS DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR ODUMOSU CONFIRMED THIS MORNING THAT CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE LAGOS TODAY FOR OFFICIAL VISIT. HE PROVIDED NO DETAILS ABOUT EITHER THE LENGTH OR PURPOSE OF THE VISIT OTHER THAN DESCRIBING IT AS "ROUTINE".
- 2. THE VISIT REPRESENTS COMPLETION OF EXCHANGE BEGUN LAST YEAR WHEN NIGERIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER GARBA VISITED CONFIDENTIAL

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HAVANA. NEVERTHELESS, TIMING OF VISIT IS INTERESTING COMING THE WEEK AFTER THE ATTEMPTED COUP IN LUANDA. IT ALSO FOLLOWS CLOSE-ON THE COLLAPSE OF THE NIGERIAN MEDIATION EFFORT IN SHABA AND AMID SIGNS THAT FMG CONTINUES TO LOSE MUCH OF THE FERVOR IT ONCE HAD FOR NETO'S MPLA GOVERNMENT. FMG IS CONCERNED OVER THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF CUBAN TROOPS IN ANGOLA AND HOPES

TO AVERT SIMILAR SITUATION IN OTHER PARTS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. IN FACT, WE EXPECT LEVEL OF CUBAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN ANGOLA (AND AFRICA GENERALLY) WILL PROBABLY BE ON AGENDA FOR CURRENT TALKS.

3. WE ALSO NOTE THAT SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER IS MAKING A LONG PLANNED VISIT HERE BEGINNING THIS WEEKEND. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE NIGERIA IS ON THE LIST OF PLACES TO VISIT THESE DAYS AND THAT OFFICIAL VISITORS MUST PLAN THEIR TRIPS TO COINCIDE WITH THOSE PERIODS WHEN GARBA IS IN TOWN (HE RETURNED FROM BRAZIL AND CIEC MEETING IN PARIS JUNE 1) THE FACT THAT THESE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS ARE VISITING SIMULTANEOUSLY MAY BE INDICATION THAT CUBAN VISIT WAS ARRANGED AT LAST MINUTE. IF THIS SUPPOSITION CORRECT IT IS VERY PROBABLE THAT RECENT EVENTS IN ANGOLA GENERATED THIS VISIT.

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NNN

^{***} Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

^{***} Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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